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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION III

1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

SDMS DociD 2082605

April 6, 2006

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<u>CERTIFIED MAIL</u> <u>RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED</u>

Michael P. Pierce, Esq. Pierce and Hughes 17 Veterans Square P.O. Box 604 Media, PA 19063

Re: Required Submission of Information

Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site, Clearview Landfill

Dear Mr. Pierce:

I have received and reviewed your letter, dated March 3, 2006, in which you indicate that your client, Richard Heller, will not respond to EPA's November 17, 2005 Information Request letter unless and until EPA provides information related to Mr. Heller's liability at the Site.

Mr. Heller received a Notice of Potential Liability letter ("Notice letter"), dated June 11, 2002, in which Mr. Heller was notified as his status as a Potentially Responsible Party ("PRP") as an operator of the Site during the time in which hazardous waste was disposed there.

EPA's authority to gather information under 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e)(2)(C), CERCLA § 104(e)(2)(C) exists independently of liability status. That section states, in part, "[EPA] may require any person who has or may have information relevant to any of the following to furnish, upon reasonable notice, information or documents relating to...(C) Information relating to the ability of a person to pay for or perform a cleanup." As such, your client is obliged under the statute to respond to EPA's request. EPA provided the June 11, 2002 letter to your client to advise him of EPA's position regarding Mr. Heller's liability.

Again, Mr. Heller's obligation under CERCLA § 104(e)(2)(C) exists independent of any determination of his liability. Failure to comply with, and respond adequately to, EPA's November 17, 2005 information request may result in EPA's ordering Mr. Heller to comply with the Information Request and/or referral of this case to the Department of Justice and pursuit of penalties under Section 104(e)(5)(B) of CERCLA. The District Court may assess a civil penalty against Mr. Heller not to exceed \$32,500 for each day of his noncompliance.

Please advise your client of his obligation to respond to the November 17, 2005 information request and the consequences for his non-compliance. I look forward to receiving Mr. Heller's response immediately.

Sincerely,

Carlyn Winter Prisk, Investigator

Office of Enforcement, Cost Recovery Branch

cc:

Richard Heller

Bonnie Pugh Winkler (3RC42)

Kristine Matzko (3HS23)

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